

FACT SHEET



Iowa City Former Manufactured Gas Plant

Iowa City, Iowa

February 2002

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues to oversee field activities at the Iowa City Former Manufactured Gas Plant site, 505 Burlington Street, Iowa City, Iowa. MidAmerican Energy Company has submitted a draft Site Characterization Report for the site to the EPA.

During 1999 through 2001, MidAmerican Energy conducted investigations to determine the nature and extent of coal tar contamination at the site. The soil, ground water, air, and sediment in storm sewers at the site were sampled. The results of these investigations have been summarized in the draft Site Characterization Report. This draft report also includes a baseline risk assessment. The baseline risk assessment evaluates the potential human health and ecological risks associated with the contaminants in soil, ground water, air sediment, and surface water.

The draft Site Characterization Report is available to the public at the Iowa City Public Library, 123 S. Linn Street, Iowa City, Iowa. Once a final version of the Site Characterization Report has been approved by the EPA, the information contained in it will provide a basis for decisions regarding further actions at this site.

SITE BACKGROUND

From 1910 to 1939, gas was manufactured at a plant located on the southeast corner of Burlington and Van Buren Streets. Iowa City Light and Power Company operated the plant. In the 1940's, Iowa City Light and Power Company became the Iowa-Illinois Gas and Electric Company (now known as MidAmerican Energy Company), which maintained service facilities on the property until about 1971. In 1983, the Iowa-Illinois Manor apartment complex was built on the site.

When the gas was produced, by-products such as coal tar were also produced. Coal tar contaminants related to former manufactured gas plant operations, such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including benzene and toluene; metals, including lead, cyanide and arsenic; and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) have been identified in samples taken by EPA, both on and off site. Some compounds found in coal tar are hazardous substances that can cause health and environmental problems if handled improperly.

In March 1999, EPA, the MidAmerican Energy Company, and the Iowa-Illinois Manor Partnership, the owner of the apartment building at the site, reached an agreement, known as an Administrative Order on Consent or AOC. The AOC requires MidAmerican Energy to determine the nature and extent of coal tar contamination at the site and assess the threat to human health and the environment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information, please contact:

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